wherein heat required for the hydrolyzing step and the removing steps is supplied by the boiling vessel and by injection of vaporized water into the column.

2. (Once amended) The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that the vaporized water is injected into the bottom of the column.

3. (Once amended) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that the amount of water injected in the form of vaporized water represents from 20 to 80 % by weight of the total water.

a1

4. (Once amended) The process according to claim 1, characterized in that the vaporized water is at a temperature of between 130 and 220 °C and at relative pressure of between 3 and 18 bar.

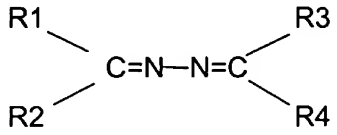
Please add the following new claims:

5. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the amount of water injected in the form of vaporized water represents from 40 to 60 % of the total water.

6. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the vaporized water is injected into the column at two or more points of the column.

a2

7. (New) The process according to claim 1, wherein the azine has the following formula:



wherein R1 to R4 are identical or different and are hydrogen, a linear alkyl radical containing from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl radical or a cycloalkyl radical containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, R1 and R2 and/or R3 and R4 may connect to each other and can together represent a linear or branched alkylene radical containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms which constitutes a cycle containing from 4 to 13 carbon atoms including the carbon atom directly connected to nitrogen atom, R1 to R4 may be substituted with chlorine, bromine, fluorine, or nitro, hydroxy or alkoxy group or an ester function.

8. (New) The process according to claim 7, wherein the azine is acetone azine or methyl ethyl ketazine.

9. (New) A process for manufacturing hydrazine, which comprises

feeding a distillation column having a boiling vessel with hydrazone and water at a top of the column;

heating the hydrazone and water in the column to hydrolyze the hydrazone to produce hydrazine and ketone;

removing the hydrazine at a bottom of the column; and

removing the ketone at the top of the column,

wherein heat required for the hydrolyzing step and the removing steps is supplied by the boiling vessel and by injection of vaporized water into the column.

10. (New) The process 9 according to Claim 9, characterized in that the vaporized water is injected into the bottom of the column.

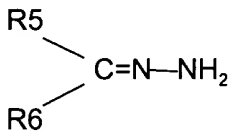
11. (New) The process according to claim 9, characterized in that the amount of water injected in the form of vaporized water represents from 20 to 80 % by weight of the total water.

12. (New) The process according to claim 9, characterized in that the vaporized water is at a temperature of between 130 and 220 °C and at relative pressure of between 3 and 18 bar.

13. (New) The process according to claim 9, wherein the amount of water injected in the form of vaporized water represents from 40 to 60 % of the total water.

14. (New) The process according to claim 9, wherein the vaporized water is injected into the column at two or more points of the column.

15. (New) The process according to claim 9, wherein the hydrazone has the following formula:



wherein R5 and R6 are identical or different and are hydrogen, a linear alkyl radical containing from 1 to 12 carbon atoms, a branched alkyl radical or a cycloalkyl radical containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms, R5 and R6 may connect to each other and can together represent a linear or branched alkylene radical containing from 3 to 12 carbon atoms which constitutes a cycle containing from 4 to 13 carbon atoms including the carbon atom directly connected to nitrogen atom, R5 and R6 may be substituted with chlorine, bromine, fluorine, or nitro, hydroxy or alkoxy group or an ester function.

16. (New) The process according to claim 7, wherein the azine is acetone azine or methyl ethyl ketazine.